

# MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

## Success Stories from the Field

### Love-Less Ash Company Inc.

#### Utah Manufacturing Extension Partnership

#### 5S Implementation Helps Love-Less Ash Attain Growth Objectives

##### Client Profile:

Love-Less Ash Vacuum Co., located in Price, Utah, is a leader in ash vacuums. The company employs less than 20 people.

##### Situation:

Love-Less Ash Vacuum was created when co-owners Mike and Colleen Loveless became frustrated with the constant task of cleaning out the wood stove they used for heat in their home. Mike decided to design and build a vacuum that could pick up the hot ash without creating a fire hazard. Once Mike had made and began to use his prototype, it seemed that everyone in the community wanted one. To meet the needs of his neighbors, Love-Less Ash was born. Since then Love-Less Ash has evolved into the leader in ash vacuums and offers several other revolutionary products engineered for real life activities with customer needs in mind. Love-Less Ash has been recognized as one of Utah's fastest growing companies for three years in a row. Rapid growth prompted the company to move from one building to the next without much time to organize or eliminate excess. The current facility is quite large but was bursting at the seams with outdated and unnecessary tools and supplies. Concerned about their available space and continued growth, Mike and a prospective customer attended a 5S training course taught by the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Utah (MEP Utah), a NIST MEP network affiliate. Love-Less Ash engaged MEP Utah's help to implement 5S practices in its facility.

##### Solution:

The 5S stands for Sort, Set in Order, Shine, Standardize, and Sustain, and is a manufacturing philosophy revolving around the idea that an orderly workplace increases efficiency and productivity. With MEP Utah's assistance, Love-Less Ash began applying each step of 5S to every part of the facility, beginning with the CEO's office and eventually moving to Mike's own garage, where the company stored additional business equipment. Love-less Ash began seeing a positive impact right away, noting increases in flexibility, productivity, efficiency, and employee morale.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, Mike and Colleen created a current state and future state map for their facility. With these procedural guidelines in place, Love-Less is implementing structured changes to the business.

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**Results:**

Opened up 30 percent more floor space.

Eliminated the need to expand current facilities.

Improved worker morale by creating a cleaner, more efficient environment.

Increased value-added employee time by 10 percent.

Improved responsiveness to customer needs.

**Testimonial:**

"I was amazed at how much stuff we had acquired over the years. I feel that the Manufacturing Extension Partnership of Utah's 5S process has helped us to become more organized and has helped us to standardize our processes."

Mike Loveless, Owner